

# *Outlook*

A Book of Pictures, Quotes, and Literary Analysis

*Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace  
National Historic Site*

**My name is**

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**Dramatic Structure:**  
**Freytag's Pyramid**  
is the idea that a story can be divided  
into five basic parts.

Exposition (Introduction)

Rising Action (Conflict)

Climax (Turning Point)

Falling Action (Consequence)

Denouement (Conclusion)

**Label** the diagram below using the five  
terms, to picture the flow of a story.



**Identify** what parts in the sequence  
the following pages are. **Circle** the term  
at the bottom of each page. *Be careful,*  
*some parts have two pages.*



*Theodore “Teedie” Roosevelt was a frail little boy, of about thirteen years old. He was a sickly child, with asthma. Due to of his poor health, he did not attend school, but was taught at home.*

*Teedie enjoyed reading books about fearless heroes and listening to their brave feats. He dreamed of becoming one of them. But for a long time, he only dreamt.*

“Until I was nearly fourteen I let this desire take no more definite shape than day-dreams. Then an incident happened that did me real good.”

The Vigor of Life,  
An Autobiography, 1913

*One day, Teedie was sent off by himself on an unaccompanied journey to Moosehead Lake in the North Woods of Maine. He left from his home at 28 East 20th Street in New York City, and arrived at Bangor and Piscataquis Railroad depot and station. On the stagecoach to the lake, a pair of boys, about his age, began bullying him.*

“They found that I was a foreordained and predestined victim, and industriously proceeded to make life miserable for me.”

The Vigor of Life,  
An Autobiography, 1913

*He stood up to his two bullies but to no  
success.*

“The worst feature was that when I finally tried to fight them I discovered that either one singly could not only handle me with easy contempt, but handle me so as not to hurt me much and yet to prevent my doing any damage whatever in return.”

The Vigor of Life,  
An Autobiography, 1913

*Looking out at the blue water, with  
dark green spruces along the shoreline,  
breathing the crisp air, he made a pact  
with himself --- to do something to change  
his fate, to “make” his body strong.*

“The experience taught me what probably  
no amount of good advice could have  
taught me. I made up my mind that I must  
try to learn so that I would not again be  
put in such a helpless position; and  
having become quickly and bitterly  
conscious that I did not have the natural  
prowess to hold my own, I decided that I  
would try to supply its place by training...  
I started to learn to box.”

The Vigor of Life,  
An Autobiography, 1913



*On a bitter cold winter day in college,  
hands, ears, and toes painfully cold, with  
no refuge in sight, his classmate Richard  
remembered how the two of them skated  
for three hours at Fresh Pond. Richard,  
who was in better shape and health than  
his friend, clenched his teeth while an  
energetic Theodore kept shouting,  
isn't it splendid!*

“Never in college was my own grit so put to the test, and yet I would not be the first to suggest 'home.' Nearly three hours passed before Roosevelt finally said: 'It's too dark to skate any more,' (as though, if there had been a moon, we could have gone on to midnight)... I recalled my numbed fingers grasping the key to my room and unable to make a turn in the lock. That afternoon of so-called sport made me realize Roosevelt's amazing vitality.”

My Classmate TR, 1929  
Richard Welling

*Before he graduated, the college physician diagnosed Theodore with a weak heart and advised him to live a "quiet life" of sitting around --- or else he would not live long. Theodore responded:*

“Doctor, I am going to do all the things you tell me not to do. If I've got to live the sort of life you have described, I don't care how short it is.”

*He hiked, he rowed, he swam, and he  
rode on horseback.*

*Theodore transformed himself, no longer  
a helpless boy. He overcame his  
unfavorable circumstance by conscious  
effort, and he believed others could do the  
same, "if only he will take the trouble."  
In his philosophy of life, he valued:*

*"that vigor of soul without which vigor of  
the body counts for nothing."*

The Vigor of Life,  
An Autobiography, 1913



## Archetypal Stories

is the idea that all stories follow patterns or *archetypes*. Below are a few types:

Overcoming the Monster

Rags to Riches

The Quest

Voyage and Return

Comedy

Tragedy

Rebirth

They are universal and timeless, and so are able to resonate with the reader.

**Analyze** the story you just read. **Circle** the pattern that you think this story best exemplifies.

Have you read other stories that are similar to this one? Choose a story and recount as much of it as you can as if you were storytelling.

[illegible]

**To be continued...**

Can you recommend any good stories that fit the other patterns? What type of stories do you enjoy reading the most?

[illegible]

[illegible]

*Believe you can  
and you're halfway there.  
- Theodore Roosevelt*

[Outlook]

[Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace  
National Historic Site]